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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7963

BILL NUMBER: SB 593

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 13, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Discharge of Long-Term Inmates.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bowser

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Correction to provide for an automatic, one-time review of a long-term inmate's sentence to determine whether the inmate has been rehabilitated and has suitable plans that would warrant discharge from custody.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Depending on the decisions made by the sentence review panel, this bill may reduce the number of offenders in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities in the long term and increase the number of offenders who may need to be supervised on parole. Operations of a review panel may involve some meeting and travel reimbursement costs based on panel membership as determined by the DOC.

As of December 16, 2004, there were 194 offenders who had been imprisoned in DOC facilities for 25 years or longer (as specified in the bill). Of these, 135 were reported to have either a high school diploma or a GED, one of the criteria for this early release. Depending on the number of offenders who are released, the state could save between \$1,825 and \$21,514 per year per offender.

The average cost of \$1,825 would apply if only a few offenders are released due to this provision. This amount represents the cost of housing offenders in existing facilities with no additional staff, and avoiding having to provide medicines, food, and clothing for these offenders who are released. If a significant number of offenders are released, the state could save as much as \$21,514 per offender. This savings can occur if DOC facilities can avoid adding new personnel, including correctional officers, program staff, and other support staff, as well as avoiding having to provide food, clothing, and medicines for these offenders.

More offenders being released may increase parole expenses if more sex offenders are released early and need to be supervised. Under IC 35-50-6-1(d), sex offenders may be assigned parole supervision for up to ten years. Of these 135 offenders with either a high school diploma or a GED, 12 were committed for a sex crime. (The number of adult offenders on parole was 5,649 offenders on July 1, 2004, as compared to 2,748 adults in 1995. There are currently 72 parole agent positions, 8 district supervisors, 2 assistant district supervisors, and 2 central office supervisors.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Correction Planning Division.

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